

## THE FFA HAS A NEW BUILDING AT THE FAIR

The Indiana State Fair Commission approved funding for a new FFA building to house FFA projects and State Fair special features, like the FFA 18-Hole Agricultural Literacy Miniature Golf Course and Young McDonald's Farm.

The U-shaped building has 25,000 square feet of area and features a 6,000 square foot courtyard in the center.

Thousands of exhibits grown in high school green-houses around the state will be located in the building as well other displays showing the talent of the Hoosier agricultural leaders of tomorrow.



## “THE BARN” RAISING IS UNDERWAY

The Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (C.A.S.H.), better known as “The Barn,” recently acquired the historic Normandy Barn that once stood on Herman Krannert's dairy farm in Marion County's Pike Township. The 120-foot-long by 35-foot-high structure sits across 38th Street from the State Fairgrounds.

During the past year, the Indiana State Fair Commission, acting as a fiscal agent for C.A.S.H., prepared the site by beautifying the area and adding some fencing. More than half of C.A.S.H.'s \$1.6 million legislative appropriation was spent to move and make interior improvements to the donated barn that dates from the 1930's.

The Normandy Barn is a beautiful building that has been detailed with fine craftsmanship.



## FAIRGROUNDS 2000

*Preserving Our Past. Building For Our Future.*

### FAIRGROUNDS' LARGEST IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN ITS HISTORY IS UNDERWAY

As you visit your favorite State Fair events and explore the new opportunities we have for your family, take a few minutes to see some of the improvements we have been working on since you were here last.

We are undertaking the greatest renovation in the Indiana State Fairgrounds' 107-year history. The more than \$40 million undertaking is called Fairgrounds 2000.

Fairgrounds 2000 is a team effort, led by Governor Frank O'Bannon, with great cooperation from the General Assembly, the Indiana State Fair Commission, the Indiana State Fair Board, and thousands of people like you who believe in what our State Fairgrounds stands for.

The project has four phases, which will be completed in the coming years. Most of the Fairgrounds' buildings will see dramatic improvements.

For example, later this year the Pepsi Coliseum will have a new heating system and the State Fair Commission is exploring the possibility of air conditioning that historic structure.

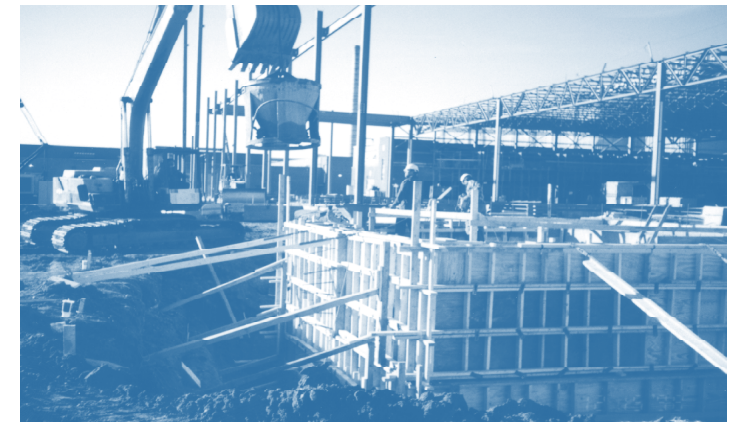
The Marsh Ag/Hort Building will feature updated restrooms as well as an electrical upgrade. And the Seyfert's Home and Family Arts Building has already become more accessible for people with disabilities as has the Marsh Grandstand.

The Cattle Barn will sport new windows, renovated restrooms, plus improved heating and lighting. In addition, this building, also known as the West Pavilion, will have significant sewer line improvements.

The Swine Barn will see critical improvements to its roof, restrooms and lighting. Plus, there will be upgrades to its water and sewer systems.

The entire Fairgrounds already benefits from a dramatic upgrading of electrical capacity that will serve the needs of exhibitors for at least a generation.

There is much more on the list and much more that needs to be done. However, Indiana State Fair Commission Executive Director William H. Stinson believes the large investment will help make the Fairgrounds a showcase for agricultural and commercial shows.



As the Fairgrounds' buildings become more rentable, more money can be earned. That simply means less tax money for a facility that is largely self-supportive. And, most importantly, the buildings will offer a much more useable and pleasant atmosphere for our Indiana State Fair exhibitors.

The money put aside for Fairgrounds 2000 comes from the Fairgrounds' share of the entrance fee from those boarding riverboat casinos as well as some funding from off-track betting.

### ELECTRICAL UPGRADE PROVIDES POWER FOR A GENERATION OF EXHIBITORS

The massive \$2 million electrical upgrade is complete and will be greatly appreciated by State Fair exhibitors. Every year there has been an increased demand for energy that has been outpacing our capabilities.

There have been near power shortages at recent State Fairs. In addition, some of the outlets were so outdated that they posed potential dangers to State Fair exhibitors.

The project has dramatically increased the Fairgrounds' electrical capacity. Electrical consultants tell commission members that the improvements not only will make the State Fair safer, but also will provide for the needs of the next generation of exhibitors. There should be no requirement for an additional upgrade for several decades.

Money for this critical improvement came from Governor Frank O'Bannon's 1997 biennium budget that was approved by the Indiana General Assembly.



## BIG IMPROVEMENTS MADE THIS YEAR



### *GREATER ACCESSIBILITY*

While it is a tremendous challenge to make the nearly 300-acre Fairgrounds accessible, not to mention many of our historic buildings, the Indiana State Fair Commission is committed to transforming the 107 year-old Fairgrounds into an accessible location for all Hoosiers to enjoy.

Not every inch of the Fairgrounds is as accessible as we would like, but we are making strides toward that goal. This year we took a couple of giant steps that cost a half-million dollars.

The Seyfert's Home and Family Arts Building just had an elevator installed and the mezzanine was leveled so that wheelchairs can easily navigate through the second floor displays. The Marsh Grandstand also had two lifts added, so seating in the grandstand can be offered in addition to track seating for those with disabilities.

Many more parking spaces have been designated for the disabled since last year's State Fair. It is always a challenge to find enough spaces for our disabled guests, but we have made progress and will continue to try.

Another improvement will be found inside the southwestern pedestrian walk tunnel, next to the infield. The tunnel has a graded ramp for wheelchair access and allows parents pushing children in strollers greater maneuverability as well.

Accessibility is an issue we remain committed to and we thank those who have disabilities for the patience they have exhibited.

### *CORNER OF 38TH AND FALL CREEK PARKWAY*

If you traveled to the State Fairgrounds from the east, you undoubtedly noticed a major change in appearance.

If you remember, the corner was nondescript with trees blocking the view of the grounds. In addition, there was a building we called the "bullpen" near the corner. To be honest, it was a bit of an eyesore.

Now you will see an attractive, low brick wall outlining the 38th Street and Fall Creek corner. And you also have a clear view of the Fairgrounds, in particular, the beautiful new Sheep Barn.

The "bullpen" was torn down and a new vehicle maintenance facility built on the north side of the grounds.

There are more improvements to be made to the area. Hoosiers will be proud of the official welcome fair guests will receive when coming to our historic Fairgrounds.

The beautification project at the Fall Creek Parkway and 38th Street intersection will be 80 percent funded by federal money, an ISTEA grant. Total cost will be between \$700,000-\$800,000.

By next year's State Fair, the building will be open and ready to make new memories for Hoosier families.

### *NEW PHONE SYSTEM*

A phone consultant has been hired and work on a new system should begin before the end of the year. These improvements will allow the State Fair staff to operate more efficiently as well as provide exhibitors and fair-goers with better service.

### *EXPO HALL*

The oldest building on the Fairgrounds, the Expo Hall, will have several positive changes. There will be new entryways on the east and west ends. In addition, the entire floor surface will be new as well as improved. Restrooms will be added. And the lighting will be better throughout the building.

## THE PEPSI COLISEUM GETS A MAJOR FACELIFT

The Pepsi Coliseum has undergone dramatic improvements during the past year: a new roof, 8,000 new seats, repair of the exterior awning, renovated dressing rooms, fresh paint for the interior and the hallways, new carpeting in various locations and special new banners that highlight the Pepsi Coliseum's history.

Nearly \$500,000 has been invested for the improvements with an additional \$500,000 spent for replacement of the obsolete roof. The improvements were completed in time for last fall's return of Indianapolis' professional hockey team, the Indianapolis Ice.

The RCA Dome generously donated more than 6,000 seats, which were in excellent condition. These seats were removed to make way for the new suites and improvements that will be part of the domed home of the Indianapolis Colts. The donation has allowed the State Fair Commission to use the monetary savings for other improvements to the Pepsi Coliseum.

During the coming year, even more positive changes are on schedule for this historic building. A new heating system will be installed and Indiana State Fair Commission members are studying the possibility of adding air conditioning. In addition, electrical upgrades will be made and exterior maintenance is on the schedule.

## BE SURE TO SEE OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW SHEEP BARN

Those who drive on 38th Street past the Fairgrounds have watched the Sheep Barn rise from rubble, like the legendary phoenix.

Most of the building was torn down so the new structure could take shape. The result is a state-of-the-art livestock building, second to none.

The old Sheep Barn was open-air and used only during the State Fair. The new Blue Ribbon Pavilion is an enclosed, modern livestock exhibit space that will have flexible, multi-use opportunities for year-round activities. That promises additional revenue for the Fairgrounds.

The project was funded with \$6.5 million appropriated from Governor O'Bannon's 1997 biennium budget. Legislators from every region of the state supported the Fairgrounds improvements.

